

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending prior to the current amendment. Claims 1, 4, and 13 have been canceled. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 21 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 2-3, 5-12, and 14-21 remain pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the present Office Action, claims 3, 5, 6, 11 and 16-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In order to expedite allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the identified allowable subject matter.

In particular, each of claims 3, 5, 11, and 16-20 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Further, claim 2 has been amended to depend upon amended claim 3. Claims 7, 8, and 10 have been amended to depend upon amended claim 5. Claim 12 has been amended to depend upon amended claim 11. Claims 14, 15, and 21 have been amended to depend upon amended claim 16. Each of the remaining dependent claims depends upon one of independent claims 3, 5, 11, 16 or 18. Accordingly, Applicant submits all claims are in condition for allowance.

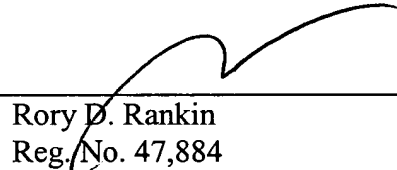
Should there remain any issues which would prevent the present application from being allowed, the below signed representative requests a telephone interview at (512) 853-8866 in order to facilitate a speedy resolution.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5266-03101/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,



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